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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 17 | Humidity 67% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 71,428 | Nifty 21,717 | Gold 63,230 | Silver 74,500 | Dollar 82.95 | Euro 89.21 | GBP 104.78

Ongoing tree census geotags each tree with a unique ID — a combination of ward name and tree number

TREE CHEERS!

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

VALENTIN S/PEXELS

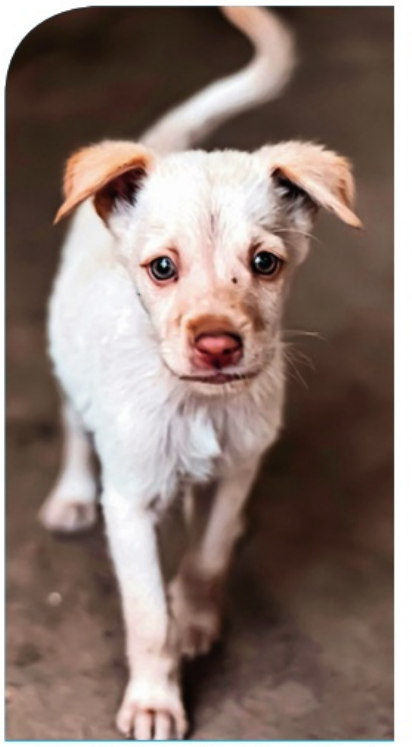
After a long wait, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has finally begun counting trees; the civic body is providing each tree in the city its own identity.

The Palike kick-started the much-awaited tree census in the last week of January after ironing out all the glitches over the past two weeks.

According to officials at the forest department of BBMP, tree counting exercise commenced in nine areas across the city simultaneously.

"Work on-ground began nearly two weeks ago. For the first few days, the digital application developed by the Karnataka Remote Sensing Institute was tested and all the issues were resolved. Full-fledged census work has begun simultaneously in nine areas across

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »



SOS LOST

Stray dog, animal lover left in agony

CITY PAGE 3

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Exciting news for water sport enthusiasts

State government is partnering with Jungle Lodges and Resorts to transform reservoirs into adventure hubs for water sports

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Attention adventure seekers! Rejoice as the state government unveils its ambitious plan to promote water sports across Karnataka's picturesque reservoirs. Get ready to dive into a world of aquatic thrills! From kayaking and paddle boating to rowing, sailing, and jet skiing, an array of exhilarating activities awaits you. The excitement begins with the launch of the first phase at Harangi Backwaters, set to open its doors to adventure enthusiasts very soon.

To bring this aquatic extravaganza to life, the state government has partnered with Jungle Lodges and Resorts Limited (JLR) and Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Limited (KSTDC). Together, they aim to transform Karnataka's water bodies into vibrant hubs of adventure tourism, offering locals and tourists alike a chance to experience the thrill of water sports.

Nestled amidst the tranquil backwaters, a vibrant tree park will serve as the starting point for an array of adrenaline-pumping adventures. From high-speed boating and exhilarating banana boat rides to bumpy bumper rides and thrilling rafting excursions, there's something for everyone to enjoy. And that's not all – a floating bridge adds an extra element of excitement to the experience, promising unforgettable moments on the water.

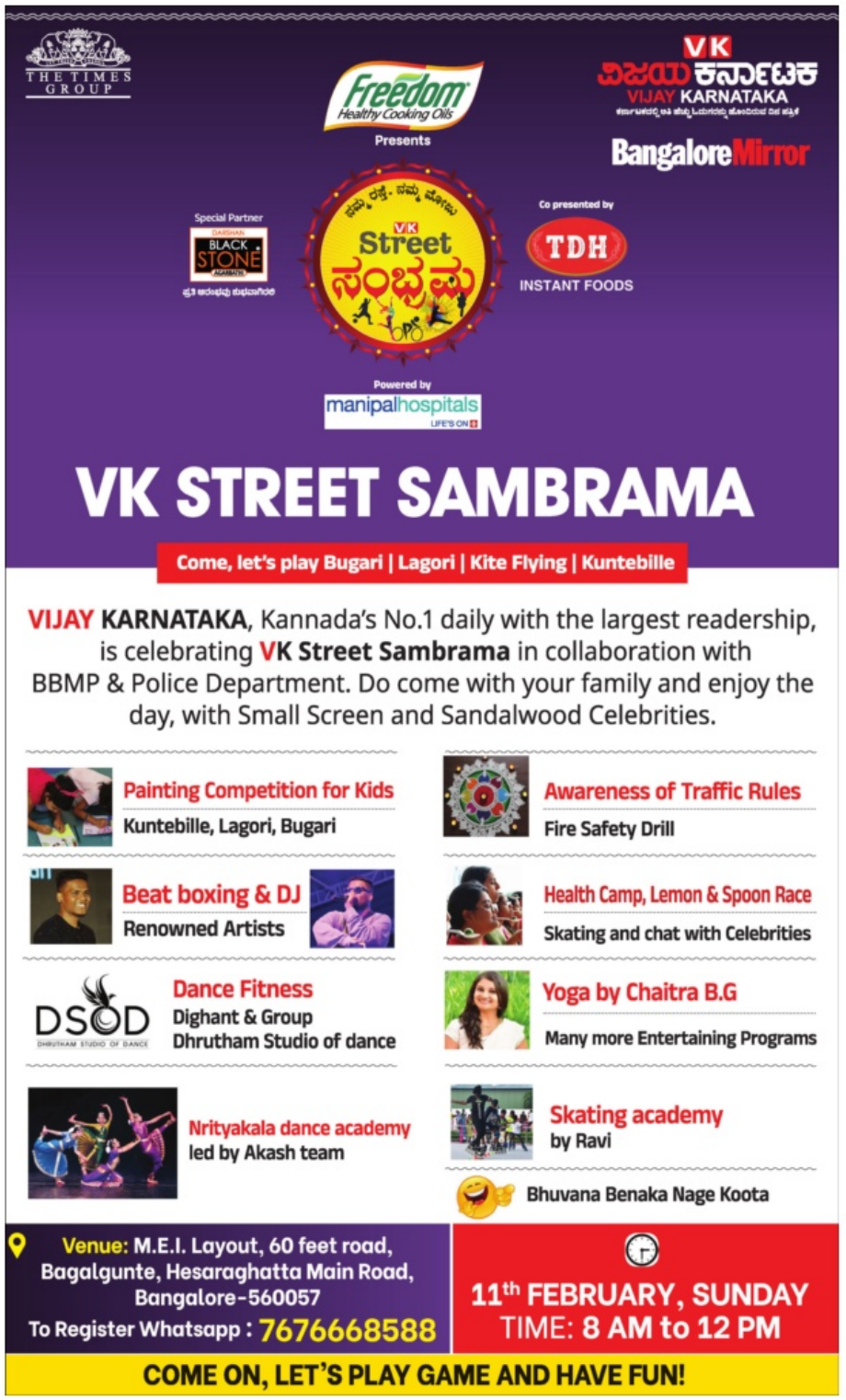
"We're diving headfirst into the first phase of water sports activities," says an official, "but we're just getting started. Our team is already exploring other potential locations, like Dubare, renowned for its thrilling water rafting experiences. And with the success of the initial phase, we're even considering the introduction of cruise boats, adding a touch of luxury to the adventure."

But the excitement doesn't end there! In the next phase, water sports will expand to Krishna Raja Sagar, Nugu, Kabini, Harangi, Gorur, Vanivilas Sagar, Bhadra, Tunga Anaicut, Tungabhadra, Malaprabha, Almatti, Narayanapura, Chandrapalli, Karanja, Kanva, Markonahalli, Shanti Sagar, Yagachi, and Suvarnavathi Dams. The sporting activities are also to come up at select locations of Cauvery, Sharavathi, Kali, Phalguni (Gurupura), and Bhadra rivers.

According to sources, there's been a surge in demand for water sports activities, with travellers often venturing to other states or countries to satisfy their thirst for adventure. With most reservoirs boasting ample water levels year-round, Karnataka's water sports industry has the potential to thrive, attracting tourists and generating revenue for local communities.

"If water sports receive official support, it'll provide travellers with peace of mind," says Ajit Kumar, a tech enthusiast and an avid traveller. "However, safety should always remain a top priority. The tourism department must ensure that all necessary safety measures are in place, as water sports can be inherently risky."

So, gear up and get ready to make a splash! Karnataka's waterways are about to become your new favourite playground, offering endless opportunities for adventure and excitement. Get ready to embark on an unforgettable aquatic journey across the heart of Karnataka.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Janaspandana snag: Trade union alleges pourakarmikas detained

KAUSHIK JN

The Janaspandana grievance redressal programme, led by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, hit a snag as pourakarmikas seeking attendance were allegedly detained by police, claimed the All India Council of Central Trade Unions. Pourakarmikas aimed to voice concerns about their tenure and employment issues.

This controversy unfolded against the backdrop of Siddaramaiah's initiative to directly address public grievances outside the Vidhana Soudha. Promising swift solutions, Siddaramaiah pledged to resolve applications within a month. He stressed the pivotal role of Deputy Commissioners in processing applications, stating, "Deputy Commissioners will dispose of applications in a time-bound manner."

Despite the programme's focus on public engagement, the detainment of pourakarmikas highlighted persistent labour disputes in Karnataka.

Activist Clifton Rozario urged the government to honour promises made in election manifestos regarding pourakarmikas' job permanency and improved working conditions. Rozario said, "Declare permanency for all pourakarmikas as promised in the Election Manifesto."

This incident underscores ongoing tensions between labour rights and government commitments, echoing past protests and assurances.

Siddaramaiah emphasised on local resolution and proactive administration, vowing action and citing previous Janaspandana successes. Despite setbacks, he expressed optimism, noting a high-resolution rate from previous events. **– BMB & Agencies**

CAR-T cell therapy hope for cancer

Apollo Cancer Centres (ACCs) announced that they are the first private hospital group in India to successfully complete a CAR-T cell programme. They further unveiled plans to provide access to 'Made in India' CAR-T cell therapy, beginning with NexCAR19™ (Actalycabtagene autoleucel), for treating B-cell lymphomas and B-acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in patients aged 15 years and above. CAR-T cell therapies, dubbed 'living drugs,' involve extracting a patient's T-cells, genetically modifying them to express Chimeric Antigen Receptors (CARs), specifically designed to recognise cancer cells and infusing them back into the patient. Dr Aditya Murali, Senior Consultant in Medical and Haemato Oncology at ACC Bangalore, expressed the significance of treating three patients using CAR-T Cell therapy at the commercial level, highlighting its efficacy and potential in offering hope for challenging conditions. Dr Neema Bhat, Consultant in Haematology and Paediatric Oncology at ACC Bangalore underscored the transformative impact of CAR-T Cell therapy in addressing B-cell malignancies, offering renewed hope to patients.

Dinesh Madhavan, President of Group Oncology and International at Apollo Hospitals Enterprises Limited, lauded ACC's pioneering achievement, emphasising their commitment to advancing CAR-T Cell Therapy and providing cutting-edge cancer care. **— BMB**

Stray dog, animal lover left in agony

After vain wait for hours for ambulance to take dog injured in accident, activist has to finally take it to private hospital

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is the custodian of stray dogs in the city and the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department is responsible for arranging an ambulance or treatment for strays in case of emergency. It should also have a helpline to attend distress calls round the clock.

But authorities concerned continue to be negligent about stray dogs injured in road accidents. And the lack of a helpline prevents animal activists from getting immediate help.

The latest case of apathy saw a stray dog lying on the road since Monday when it was caught in an accident. Residents nearby were able to feed it, but could do nothing to ease its pain. On Wednesday, Tony Antony E, an animal activist came across the dog and tried to contact the authorities for an ambulance. "I was waiting for the ambulance from 12 noon to 7 pm but the authorities did nothing. I contacted Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Member Secretary Dr Chandrasekhar seeking help but he advised me to contact Anirudh, who told me he could not arrange an ambulance on Wednesday. Later, I contacted BBMP Animal Husbandry Joint Director Dr Ravi Kumar but he too expressed his inability to arrange an ambulance," said Tony.

Tony and his friend then took the dog to the Bangalore Pet Hospital for treatment. "I am fed up with the negligence of BBMP and State Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences authorities. It is their responsibility to arrange transport and treatment for injured stray dogs. It is not possible for a common man to bear the transport and treatment cost," Tony said.

The dog that was injured in an accident is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital

Animal activists slammed the apathy of authorities. "The BBMP has ambulances but these vehicles are not used for transporting injured dogs. How can the BBMP expect the public to bring injured stray dogs to Shivajinagar or Yelahanka for treatment? The government must reopen the veterinary clinics and hospitals that were shut down recently," said Arun Prasad, an animal activist.

> **"It is the responsibility of the BBMP and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences authorities to arrange transport and treatment for injured strays**
>
> –Tony Antony E, animal activist

Sujaya Jagadeesh, SPCA member, said that it is very frustrating when common citizens or volunteers have to step in to help animals most times due to a lack of timely government assistance. "Taking rescued animals to private clinics and facing hefty bills is no joke. Animal welfare is indeed a shared responsibility for community health and ideally, there should be efficient systems in place to address such issues promptly," said Sujaya.

SPCA Member Secretary Dr Chandrasekhar said he assigned Anirudh to attend to the problem as he was busy with meetings.

BBMP Animal Husbandry Joint Director Dr Ravi Kumar told BM that he received the information at 6.45 pm and could not make arrangements to send an ambulance since drivers' duty ends at 5.30 pm.

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Hookah ban: State says no to smoke on water

State government implements comprehensive ban on hookah bars, supported by alarming WHO survey data

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The state government has implemented a ban on hookah bars to safeguard public health. This decision has been in contemplation since last September. On Wednesday, the state health department issued a notification officially prohibiting the sale and consumption of hookah. Social activists have expressed their support for the state health department's action against hookah bars.

The state government has implemented a ban on the use, sale, and service of hookah in all public places, including hotels, restaurants, pubs, bars, lounges, cafes, clubs, and other recreational establishments.

Welcoming this ban, Dr (Prof) US Vishal Rao, Member of the High Power Committee on Tobacco Control, Government of Karnataka, and member of the Consultative Group to the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister, emphasised that this decisive action is supported by alarming data from the WHO Global Adult Tobacco Survey-2016-17 (GATS-2). The survey reveals that 22.8 per cent of adults in Karnataka use tobacco, with 8.8 per cent identified as smokers, and exposure to second-hand smoke in public places stands at 23.9 per cent. The mean age for initiating tobacco use is approximately 19 years old.

"The increasing popularity of hookah smoking, particularly among the youth, has raised significant health concerns. Studies have demonstrated that the smoke from hookah, which contains carbon monoxide, metals, and carcinogens, poses serious health risks. These include various forms of cancer, reduced lung function, and cardiovascular disease, mirroring the dangers associated with cigarette smoking," said Dr Vishal Rao.

Moreover, Hookah bars, often found in close proximity to educational institutions, operate without adherence to existing legal provisions, including the COTPA 2003, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and several other pertinent regulations.

"The prohibition is grounded in extensive research indicating that even one hookah session can be as harmful as smoking 100 cigarettes. The resulting second-hand smoke presents a lethal cocktail of chemicals, endangering both smokers and non-smokers alike. In light of the evidence and the potential health risks, the government is taking a firm stance against hookah smoking. This initiative serves as a critical step in protecting the health and well-being of all citizens and reinforcing the importance of public health directives," Dr Rao said.

> **"This initiative serves as a critical step in protecting the health and well-being of all citizens and reinforcing the importance of public health directives** – Dr Vishal Rao, Member of the High Power Committee on Tobacco Control, Government of Karnataka

Describing the ban on hookah, both tobacco & herbal/flavoured as a welcoming decision towards saving the lives of many youths, Smoke-Free Bengaluru Initiative, Vital Strategies Project Director Dr Thriveni BS said that one-hour hookah session is equivalent to smoking 100 cigarettes, which unfortunately not many youths are aware of.

"Banning under many existing Acts, including nicotine as poison and fire safety, apart from public health measures from the government, is commendable. I am happy to be part of the expert group who worked towards this ban order," said Dr Thriveni. R Rajagopalan, Convener of Bengaluru Resident Welfare Association, said there are 15 to 20 hookah bars in JP Nagar and surrounding areas, and residents used to frequently complain to the police against those hookah bars until last year. "The Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Health Department did not conduct any drive to close those hookah bars, including some operating without a license. There were also cases pending in the High Court, making adjudication difficult without clear legislation. Now, with the base product (hookah) and any variation of tobacco itself being banned by the government, enforcement becomes easy," said Rajagopalan.

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Four key train routes set for quadrupling

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Proof of the saturation of key railway routes is evident as at least four stretches are slated for quadrupling tracks, highlighting the insufficiency of twin tracks to meet the ever-increasing demand for trains. Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw revealed that the railways have proposed quadrupling for several routes, including Bengaluru-Tumakuru (70 km), Bengaluru-Mysuru (135 km), and between Bangarapet-Jolarpettai (70 km), with earlier approval for the Bengaluru-Whitefield section.

The quadrupling of the Bengaluru-Mysuru railway line is poised to facilitate an augmentation in train services. A railway official said, "Solely quadrupling the Bengaluru-Mysuru railway line wouldn't suffice due to the presence of 130 curves along the 139 km stretch. Therefore, initiatives must be undertaken to rectify this by acquiring adjacent land, which would substantially enhance the straightness of the railway lines. These measures hold significant promise in augmenting train speeds. To illustrate, the Vande Bharat train presently requires approximately 1.50 to 2 hours to reach Mysuru and can only operate at speeds of up to 110 km ph, despite being equipped for speeds of 150 km ph. Conversely, there has been a noticeable surge in rail traffic to Tumakuru, necessitating the imperative for quadrupling.``

In a bid to enhance the speed of Bengaluru-Mumbai trains via Miraj in the future, Vaishnaw stated that the entire single line connecting Bangalore to Mumbai and Hyderabad has been sanctioned and converted into a double line over the past nine years. Additionally, stretches like Miraj-Londa (186 km), Hubli-Chikjajur (190 km), Arsikere-Tumkur (96 km), and Yelahanka-Penukonda (120 km) have been sanctioned and completed. However, the completion of railway projects is subject to various factors such as land acquisition, forest clearance, utility relocation, statutory clearances, geological and topographical conditions, law and order situations, and climatic conditions. Despite these challenges, efforts are underway to expedite project execution.

Simultaneously, the Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (K-RIDE), primarily controlled by the State Government of Karnataka, is overseeing the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP). The project, sanctioned by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in October 2020, comprises four corridors totalling 148.17 km. While land acquisition for corridors 2 and 4 has been completed, construction work is progressing for corridor 2, and resource mobilisation has commenced for corridor 4. Survey work and geotechnical investigations for corridors 1 and 3 have been finalised, with funds released by both the central and state governments.

Furthermore, various railway infrastructure projects totalling 3,866 km in length and costing 47,346 crore are in the planning, approval, or construction stages in Karnataka as of April 1, 2023. These include 21 new line projects covering 2,583 km and 10 doubling projects spanning 1,283 km. These projects fall under the South Western Railway (SWR), Central Railway (CR), Southern Railway (SR), and South Central Railway (SCR) zones of the Indian Railway system.

Innovative ways to pop the question

May Valentine be with you

You've been together for a while, and you're ready to take your relationship to the next step. Why wait for your partner to propose when you can do it yourself? And what better Day for a proposal than the Day of love? Valentine's Day is here, and if you're thinking of proposing to your SO, then we have your back. Here are some ideas to make it unique.

Does your partner love theatre? Why not go for a play on the 14th? Set it up with the theatre production team to have the proposal during the intermission, or after the play? Trust us; everyone loves to help set up a cute proposal.

Does your partner love the written word? Do they have a personal library in their room? Why not have your love story till date written as a story and sneak that in into the library? Create a situation where your partner gets to read this book, and on the last page, instead of writing "happily ever after", pop the question.

If your partner is someone who listens to the radio often, have a jingle recorded at their favourite station and have it played at a time you know he/she listens to the radio.

If you want to create a little anticipation and mystery, do a little countdown of questions. If you're starting two days before V-Day, then ask him your partner questions… can be in text, in person, over mail or any means you want. Questions can be like "What are your future plans?", "If we were stranded on an island, what is it that you'd like to do first?", etc. A day before, make it two questions, and on V-Day, it's the final question that you've been meaning to ask!

Does your partner like to go gymming and have a particular gym they visit? Get the trainers and the gym onboard for the proposal. Have a gym treasure hunt. Your partner has to complete specific exercises – 5 minutes at the treadmill, ten jumping jacks, 5 minutes at the elliptical cycle, etc. for the next clue. The last clue can lead them to you where you are ready to pop the question!

Does your partner love to be pampered while on a getaway with just the two of you? Then book a staycation, and let the hospitality partner know of your big plans. You may want to plan a big surprise for the last day of your stay to pop the question.

—Femina

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For those seeking ultimate relaxation, our 'Pampered Pairing Couples Spa' offers a blissful retreat at The Ritz-Carlton Spa. Immerse yourselves in tranquility with a rejuvenating massage, followed by a curated cocktail experience. Indulge further with an exclusive 20% discount on lunch at our acclaimed fine dining restaurants, The Lantern or Riwaz, elevating your day with a blend of relaxation and culinary excellence.

Treasures of Love

Surprise your loved one with Ganache's Treasures of Love,

The Ritz Carlton, Bangalore

showcasing enchanting Valentine's goodies curated to blend sweetness and luxury. Treat their senses to a delightful array of handcrafted chocolates and elegant surprises, elevating your gifting game.

'Eternal Love Infusions' awaits at our Valentine's Hi-Tea in the Lobby Lounge, where The Legendary Ritz-Carlton high-tea is accompanied by sweet elixirs and the serenade of our pianist, setting the stage for a timeless love story.

Cupid's Countdown Brunch

As the day of love approaches, join us for 'Cupid's Countdown Brunch' at The Market, a prelude to romance amidst a symphony of flavors.

Experience 'Heart-Throb Sundowner' at BANG! Indulge in pre-Valentine's ambiance with music, flavors, and love's anticipation

Under the stars

Indulge in an exclusive dining experience under the twinkling stars at our Lawn and Poolside. Immerse yourself in the luxury of a private setting, where every detail is meticulously curated for your utmost enjoyment. Delight in gourmet cuisine served amidst the enchanting ambiance, accompanied by live entertainment, making it an unforgettable evening of romance and elegance.

Lantern of Love

Embark on a romantic journey with an exquisite Cantonese set menu at The Lantern this Valentine's Day. Let the tantalizing aroma and exquisite taste set the stage for your love story.

Finally, extend the celebration with 'Love's Sequel Brunch' at The Market, because love is meant to be savored beyond a single day.

At The Ritz-Carlton Bangalore, there is something for everyone to savor this Valentine's Day. Infuse a touch of class into your love story, where every moment articulates the language of flavor, enriching your journey with the taste of love.

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Have a train to catch, hurry up with security scanning

Techies request BMRCL to install more security scanners at stations as more offices mandate 3-day work from office

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

IT professionals, who use the metro services of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), have complained that since offices have begun to mandate work from office at least three days in a week, the metro has been witnessing heavy footfall, leading to commuters having to get into long queues before their belongings and themselves have been checked by security scanners.

In a video that has been making rounds on social media, commuters at Benniganahalli metro station can be seen queued until the exit point of the station. Sujith who posted the video on X said, "Dear sir, all the companies started three days of WFO (work from office). It is mandatory now and daily footfall in the metro station is increasing. With only one scanning machine, people are being made to stand in a long queue in the metro stations, which is not acceptable," tagging Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and the BMRCL. He added that the wait was defeating the purpose of quick and mass transport.

Commuters have urged the BMRCL to bring in additional security scanners and security personnel responsible for checks at relevant metro stations, as the ridership has seen a significant increase and is likely to rise further.

Sanjana Rao, an IT professional, who commutes from Rajajinagar to Nallurhalli metro since her workplace mandated a three-day work from office policy said, "There is an urgent need for security scanners to be installed in metro stations that receive heavy footfall. But, the BMRCL must simultaneously focus on increasing the headway of trains as the people who pass through the security scanners will accumulate on their platforms and then onto the metro coaches. The goal must be to reduce crowding."

The BMRCL has taken note of the issue and has said they are witnessing higher footfalls than they had anticipated. They added the personnel concerned have been instructed to study, analyse and to install more security scanners along with additional automatic fare gates to reduce the inconvenience.

Scenes from the viral queue at Benniganahalli metro station

In other updates

Tunnelling work

As much as 91% of the underground metro tunnelling work is completed, and the rest will be finished by August 2024.

The contract for construction of underground section from South of Tannery Road station to North Ramp at Nagawara for a length of 4.591 km, involving tunneling and four underground metro stations via Tannery Road, Venkateshpura, Kadagondanahalli and Nagawara was awarded to contractor ITD Cementation India Ltd in December 2019. The contractor had commenced tunneling works using two EPB Type Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) namely TBM-1 (Bhadra) and TBM-2 (Tunga) in 2021.

Bhadra made a breakthrough on Thursday at KG Halli, after tunnelling 1185.80m between Ventakeshapura and Kadugondanahalli metro stations, which was launched on 16 February 2023 at Venkateshpura underground station. With this breakthrough, out of the total 20992 m of tunnelling, 19120.70 m is completed i.e. 91%. This TBM will be further deployed for tunnelling between K G Halli to the retrieval shaft near Nagawara underground station.

Pink Line to be operational in 2025

Under Phase-2 of the project, Reach 6 line is from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara totalling to 21.26 km with 18 stations. It consists of an elevated section of 7.50 km with six stations from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere and an underground section of 13.76 km with 12 stations from Dairy Circle to Nagawara.

Highlights of pink line

Jayadeva Interchange Station: The five level elevated station has been constructed near Jayadeva hospital (3 levels for road and 2 levels for metro). This station provides interchange facilitation between Reach-6 line and Reach-5 line.

MG Road Interchange Station: An underground station is being constructed below Kamraj Road beside the operational elevated MG Road station. The underground station has got four entry/exits out of which, one entry/exit will be integrated with elevated station to facilitate seamless interchange (paid to paid) between Reach-6 line and Reach-1 line. Kamaraj Road closed for construction of M G Road UG station will be opened for public use by April 2024.

Cantonment Metro Station: An underground metro station is being constructed near Cantonment Railway station of Indian Railways. Metro station will be connected with Indian Railway station by way of Foot Over Bridge to facilitate smooth movement of passengers.

Nagawara Interchange Station: Reach-6 line (underground) intersects with Airport Metro line (elevated) at Nagawara. The underground station will be integrated with elevated metro station to facilitate seamless movement (paid to paid) of passengers.

Each tree to its own

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the city including Rajaji Nagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and Sadashiva Nagar. Currently, nearly 50 people are carrying out the census on ground," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forests, BBMP.

After the tender for the project was floated in early October last year, the work order was recently issued to a company named Rasta Infra. This was after the Palike landed in a single-bid situation in response to tenders. The BBMP had floated eight tenders, one for each zone, but received only two bids in response from the same bidder.

Under the ongoing process, every tree in the city will get a patch of yellow background with its unique number painted on it in black. The unique ID, a combination of ward name and tree number, is being generated by the app used to document the process.

However, the census will deviate a bit from the full-fledged process, as suggested by some environmentalists and organisations in the past.

Each tree will get a patch of yellow background with a unique number

According to officials from the forest department, the census will focus on the number of trees in the city and will document five parameters —girth, unique tree ID, species name, GPS location, and photographs — of each tree.

Under the census, every tree will be geo-tagged and details will be fed into the app. This information will be available in the public domain and anybody who wants to access details of any tree in the city can log on to the application and click on the particular tree. This will lead to information such as girth, species, location, and general health of the tree.

"It is happening ward-wise and is expected to be completed by August 2024. However, a couple of months of extension period might be given if the requirement arises. QR codes are being put up on trees in some designated places such as parks and zonal offices," added Swamy.

To carry out the much-awaited tree census of Bengaluru after a delay of more than four years, the civic agency has divided the city into eight zones of approximately 1,000 sq km each to enumerate an estimated 20.8 lakh trees in the city, covering an area of 9,761.6 sq km. The fund allocated for the project, expected to be completed by March, is slightly over Rs 3.74 crore.

After enumerating over 20 lakh trees, the total cost for the project based on the first leg will be estimated. Once the exact amount is calculated, funds will be sanctioned immediately for the census to be completed.

You want to say it with roses?

Just go ahead and do that. Find out what each colour means

February, famously known as the month of love, is eagerly anticipated by people worldwide as Valentine's Day approaches, marking a significant occasion dedicated to love and togetherness Valentine's Week 2024 has already kicked off folks, ushering in a series of days dedicated to celebrating love through unique expressions of affection.

Marking the Beginning:
Rose Day - February 7th: February 7th annually commemorates Rose Day, heralding the start of Valentine's Week festivities. This day holds special significance as it revolves around expressing love and affection through the timeless symbol of the rose.

Exploring the Roots of Rose Day
Rose Day finds its origins in the age-old tradition of exchanging roses as tokens of love and friendship. Across various cultures, roses have symbolized love, passion, and admiration, showcasing the enduring cultural significance of this floral emblem.

Symbolism of Rose Day

The observance of Rose Day transcends mere romantic gestures, as each color of the rose conveys distinct emotions and sentiments, adding a personal touch to expressions of affection.

Red Roses: Love and Romance: Red roses symbolize intense love and passion, often used to convey deep emotions and romantic promises, making them a classic emblem of profound affection.

Yellow Roses: Friendship and Joy: Yellow roses represent friendship and joy, ideal for expressing platonic love and appreciation, spreading warmth and happiness among friends and family.

White Roses: Innocence and New Beginnings: White roses signify purity, innocence, and new beginnings, commonly associated with young love or fresh starts, conveying sincere and genuine emotions.

Pink Roses: Gratitude and Admiration: Pink roses convey gratitude, appreciation, and admiration, serving as a subtle yet meaningful way to express affection towards friends, family, or romantic interests.

Orange Roses: Fascination and Longing: Orange roses symbolize fascination, longing, and desire, representing intense and passionate emotions, perfect for budding romantic relationships or taking friendships to the next level.

In essence, Rose Day 2024 transcends being a mere prelude to Valentine's Day; it stands as a celebration of love in its myriad forms. Whether through a single rose or grand gestures, this day provides an opportunity to express affection, appreciation, and friendship in unique and heartfelt ways.

ADVERTORIAL

Candle Night Dinner at Hyatt Centric MG Road

Experience the allure of love as the curtains rise on the season of romance. Hyatt Centric MG Road Bangalore beckons you and your beloved to embark on an enchanting journey at The Bengaluru Brasserie, where unforgettable moments await.

Prepare your senses for an extraordinary culinary adventure with an extensive 4 course meal, starting with delectable appetizers, let your palate be seduced by the bold flavors of Kimchi Stuffed Crispy Mushrooms and the fiery Peri Peri Tandoori Chicken Drums. As you succumb to the irresistible aroma, succulent bites of Beetroot Lavash with sundried Tomato Pesto or Valentine Chocolate Strawberry Bites will transport you to a world of pure bliss.

Awaken your craving for more with a refreshing interlude of pomegranate and Rose Sorbet, tantalizing your taste buds in anticipation of the grand feast ahead. Immerse yourself in the symphony of flavors as you indulge in exquisite main courses, featuring the delicate harmony of Asparagus Risotto with Parmesan Crisps, the succulent Grilled Fish steak infused with Fennel and Orange Glaze, or the tantalizing Veg and Tofu in Thai Green Curry with fragrant Jasmine Rice.

Wrap up your romantic evening poolside, immersed in the warm glow of love, as you savor the exquisite delights of Belgian Chocolate Truffles and the seductive Strawberry Mascarpone Delight.

This February, celebrate love with an extraordinary Candle Night Dinner exclusively at The Bengaluru Brasserie, Hyatt Centric MG Road Bangalore. Let the magic of the evening embrace you and your beloved, forging memories that will forever be etched in your hearts.

PACKAGES

- INR **6999** +++ with alcohol per couple for lower deck (4 course meal with 1bottle of Indian sparkling wine);
- INR **7999** +++ with alcohol per couple for pool side (4 course meal with 1 bottle of international sparkling wine)
- INR **16999** +++ with personalized butler, 4 course meal select menu, 2 bottle of sparkling wine, 1 flower bouquet, decor with flowers and candles, heart shaped chocolate cake.

DATE: 14th February, 2024, **TIME:** 7: 30 PM onwards.
For more information, please call: 9591510193

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personal

LOST & FOUND

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **VISHWESHWAR GANGADHAR HEGDE** S/o Late Gangadhar Narayan Hegde residing at C/o Santhosh Hegde, No.1A, Blossom Court, Ayyappan Nagar Main Road, SBI Colony, Nanganallur, Chennai600 061 stating that, the original documents of Allotment Deed, Title Deed and Khatha Certificate (Document No. 65141) of BDA site No.51, Banashankari 6th Phase, 2nd Block were accidentally lost on 14.07.2021 in the car parking place. I have submitted a complaint (LR No.0812284/2023) to the Bangalore City Police on 17.11.2023 in this regard. If anyone finds the said Documents, please contact the above address or
9940422564

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Chaitra D N W/ o Rajesh R, Residing at No.42, Anjanadri Layout, Behind Morning Star School, Thanisandra, Bangalore North, Karnataka - 560077. My name mentioned Aadhaar Card, Pan Card, Voter Id As Chaitra D N & Kotak Bank A/c as Chaitra.R. Hereby Declare that both the names Chaitra D N & Chaitra.R pertain to one & Same Person. My Correct name is Chaitra D N Vide affidavit dated 03.02.2024 Sworn Before Notary I. Kanikha Raja, Bangalore.

I, MAKAM SOBHAKAR S/o Lakshmaiah.M.V R/at No.126/18, Mahanta Layout, K.G.Nagar, B.T.Road, Bangalore- 560019, have changed my name to MAKAM SHOBHAKAR vide affidavit dated: 8/2/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Shashidhara Rai S/o Vishwanatha Rai, R/o Flat No. 844, Wing 8, Suguna Upper Crest, No. 1196, Opp. Global Academy of Technology, 4th Cross, Gattigere Extension, Rajarajeswhari Nagar, Bengaluru- 560098 I have changed my name from Hirthandabail Shashidhara Rai to Shashidhara Rai vide affidavit no IN-KA23977956368841W dated 7.2.2024

I Ashish Bhalchandra Bhagwate alias Bhagwate Ashish Bhalchandra alias Ashish Bhagwate, R/at 1125, DSR Waterscape, K Channasandra Road, Near Lakeview Garden, Horamavu, Haoramavu Agara, Bangalore 560043 have changed name as Ashish Bhalchandra vide affidavit dated 08/02/2024 in front of Notray S.Subashini Bangalore

I, VIJAYALAKSHMI W/o Makam Shobhakar R/at No.126/18 Mahanta Layout K.G.Nagar B.T.Road, Bangalore- 560019, have changed my name to MAKAM VIJAYALAKSHMI vide affidavit dated: 8/2/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Azam Khan Makarhalli Abdulrahim Khan S/o Abdul Rehman Khan # 324 modi Road Blr-45 have changed my name to Azam Khan Makarhalli Abdul Rehman Khan for all purposes.

I, H M Indushekara Bhatta R/o S/o Manjunatha Bhatta H S Heggadde Kavadi Chikkamagaluru Karnataka 577139 have changed my minor son's name from Shreerama Bhatta to Shreerama Bhatta H I.

I Rajesh Nagaraj R/o 226,2nd C Cross,7th Main,Nagendrablock B'luru 560050 have changed my minor Doughter's name from DHWANI to DHWANI RAJESH for all purposes.

I, Dhruti Das W/o Vinoo Das R/o 501 4th floor, Oxford Ambience Rustam bagh Old airport road Bengaluru - 560017 have changed my name to Dhruti Bal Das for all purposes

I, Shashidhar S/o Madappa.B.P R/o #93,14th Main,5th Cross 4th Block,Nandini Layout B'luru 560096 have changed my name to B.M.Shashidhar for all purposes.

I, Kotha Swetha,w/o Vinay Kotha, R/o 109,Adithya soigne apts,Cynosure, Shivanandnagar, Bengaluru, 560075, have changed my name to Inuganti Swetha.

I KANISHK S/O DILIP T MALLECHA residing at 129,33rd cross 11th main road Jayanagar 4th block Bangalore-560011 have changed my name to KANISHK D MALLECHA

I, Noor S/o Abdul Haq # 32 TP No 276/c1 Coffee Board Colony Blr-45 have changed my name to Abdul Rehman Noor for all purposes.

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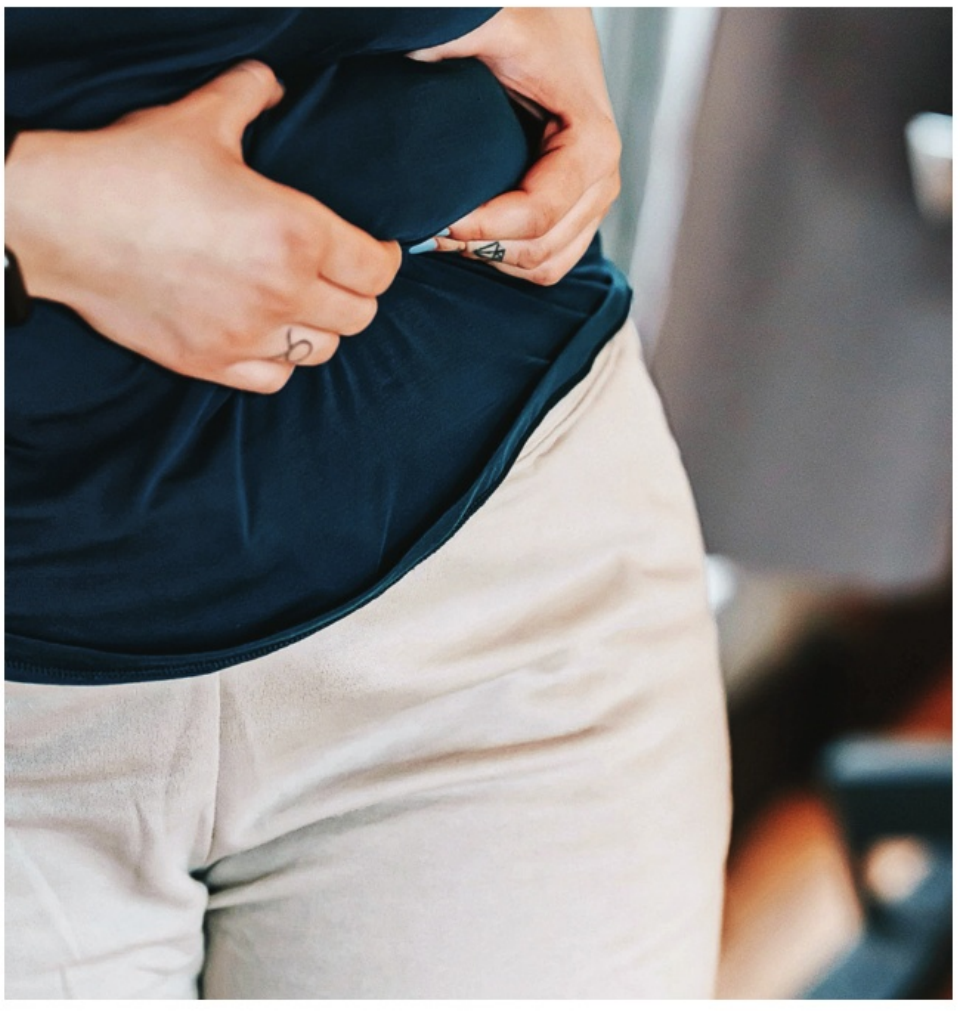
Excess weight can add to mental and physical unease among individuals

Increase in obesity: a growing concern



The pervasive issue of obesity has witnessed a significant surge following the pandemic, primarily due to the widespread adoption of sedentary lifestyles. Its impact spans across all age groups and is widely recognized as one of the most pressing health concerns worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, obesity is characterized by abnormal or excessive fat accumulation posing significant health risks, with overweight defined as a BMI over 25 and obesity as a BMI over 30.

Health experts have noted that the increase in obesity, fueled by urbanization, nutrition transition, and increasingly sedentary lifestyles, has made it an epidemic among Asian countries. They also tend to develop diabetes at younger ages and lower BMI levels than Caucasians. Several factors contribute to this increase in diabetes, including a high prevalence of smoking and heavy alcohol use; high intake of refined carbohydrates (e.g., white rice); and reduced physical activity levels. Poor nutrition in early life combined with overnutrition in later life also plays a significant role. Interactions between Westernized diet and lifestyle and genetic background together accelerate the rate of diabetes onset in the context of this transition in nutrition.

Experts warn that obesity rates can also result in infertility conditions like Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS), which have become more prevalent, adding complexity to fertility issues. The importance of lifestyle modifications, regular exercise, the practice of Yoga, and maintaining a calm and relaxed state cannot be overstated in enhancing natural conception.

> **“ The increase in obesity, fuelled by urbanisation, nutrition transition, and increasingly sedentary lifestyles, has made it an epidemic in Asian countries**

Furthermore, obesity is associated with an increased risk of various fatal conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, and certain types of cancer. Addressing this issue necessitates a multifaceted approach, ranging from lifestyle modifications to medical interventions. Lifestyle changes, such as adopting a healthier diet and increasing physical activity, are deemed one of the safest methods to combat obesity. Weight-loss programs, comprising counseling, diet plans, and exercise regimens, offer structured support for individuals seeking to shed excess weight. In cases where lifestyle adjustments prove insufficient, weight-loss medications may be prescribed to expedite the process. However, adherence to diet and physical activity regimens remains imperative while utilizing such medications. For individuals with severe obesity, bariatric or metabolic surgery may be recommended, involving various procedures aimed at modifying the digestive system to induce weight loss. Metabolic surgeries yield impressive outcomes, with around 60-80% excess weight loss, 80% diabetic remission, and significant reductions in comorbidities such as sleep apnea. These interventions play a crucial role in addressing the obesity epidemic, offering tangible benefits for individuals struggling with weight-related health issues.

Through concerted efforts to raise awareness, promote education, and implement both lifestyle changes and medical interventions, we can collectively combat obesity and pave the way for healthier, happier lives for individuals worldwide.

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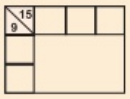
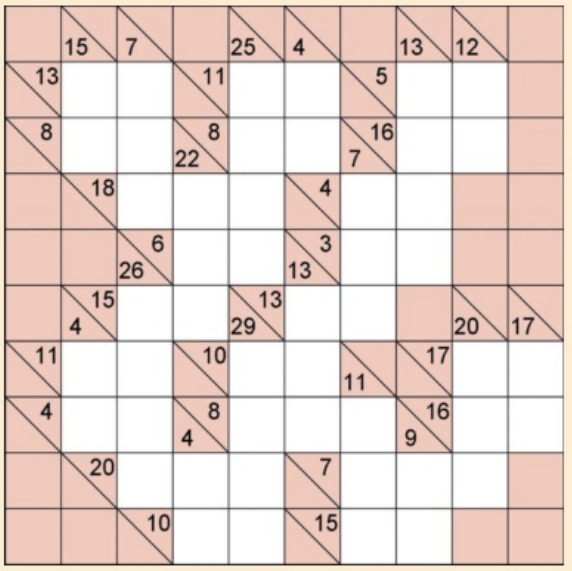
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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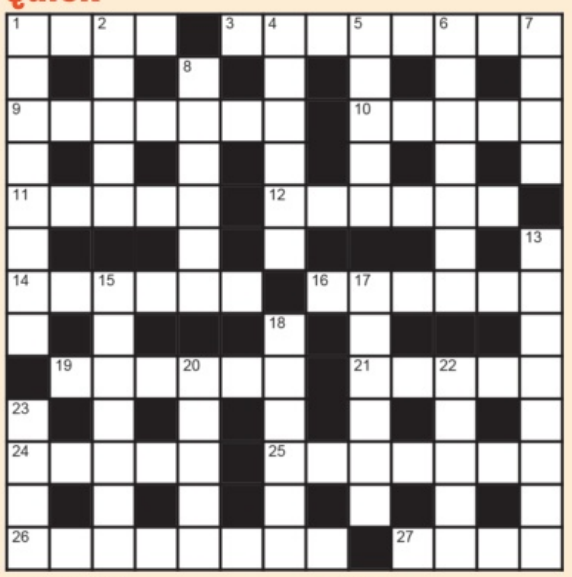


ACROSS

1 In addition (4)
3 Originated, discharged, issued forth (8)
9 Begins to grow? (7)
10 To long for (5)
11 Latin American dance (5)
12 Gnawing animal (6)
14 A hall for public lectures (6)
16 Soft and woolly (6)
19 Rhythm instrument (6)
21 Horse's whinny (5)
24 Bhubaneswar lingo (5)
25 Small bird (7)
26 Putting on clothes (8)
27 Sight (4)

DOWN

1 Gathering (8)
2 Push off (5)
4 Karnataka's royal city (6)
5 Condemned or denied? (5)
6 Apprentice (7)
7 Unpleasantly wet, foetid (4)
8 Japanese number puzzle (6)
13 Incidentally (2,3,3)
15 Church vessel (7)
17 One-dimensional (6)
18 Hand from one to another ? (4,2)
20 Burnoose wearers (5)
22 English television and film actor ___ Elba (5)
23 Disposition (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

ZU ONBQ XHRZSNHO CQAA ZSXH RUJV KQAZ, NA ZU AX-IVNGNIQ ZSQ ONGZ.

Linemaro

In degrees of beauty, you top the scale

Mindchow

The most dangerous creation of any society is the man who has nothing to lose

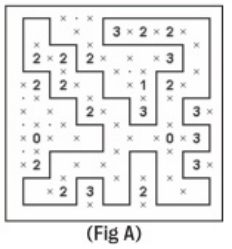
Joke of the day

I went to the local video shop and said, 'Can I borrow Batman Forever?' He said, 'No, you'll have to bring it back tomorrow.'

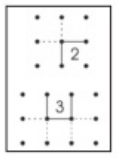
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

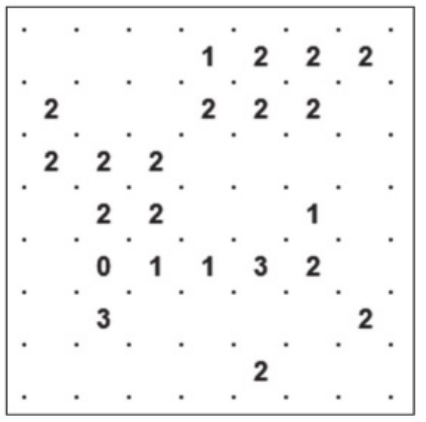


(Fig B) Not Allowed

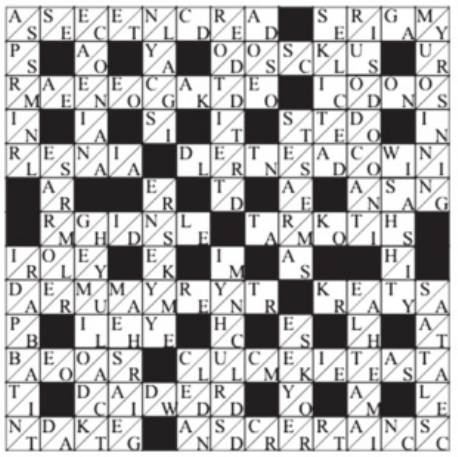
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



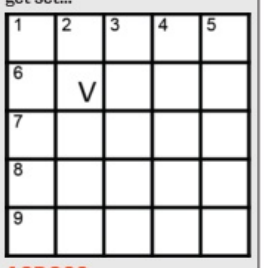
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 SC Coe; 6 OO Vol; 7 Amend; 8 A ream; 9 Cyril

DOWN

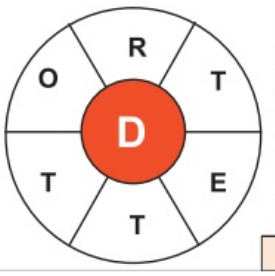
1 Am col; 2 Yo RAV; 3 Roans; 4 Emile; 5 C code

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

5	10	9	4
7	4	5	8
3	2	5	6
1	8	9	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

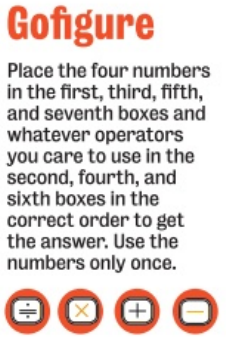
SudokuChallenge

	8					7	6	
				5	3			2
3		4			6	8		
		7			2	9	8	
5								4
	3	8	4			5		
		3	2			4		5
7			3	4				
	2	1					7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Thermometer is added. 3. Apron bow is missing. 4. Fingers are different. 5. Hair is different. 6. Corner of pillow is different.

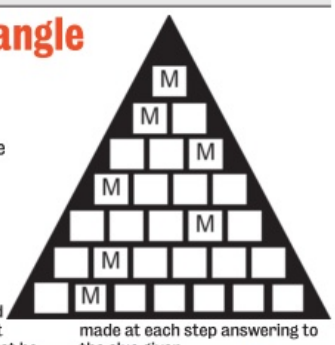
Riddler

Below, you will find 5 sports, all scrambled up. As you unscramble the letters to find each sport, you will find there are 2 extra letters in each. Once you have unscrambled each sport, take the remaining 10 letters to find one last sport.

CAKESHYO TLTKASEBBIAL GLASYBALEB LTCAOSFBOL RMOCNESC CMTRNKECI

Alpha triangle

1 13th letter
2 Do, re,_ fa ....
3 Outer edge
4 Deep mud
5 Like one and three
6 Contaminated
7 Refereed



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

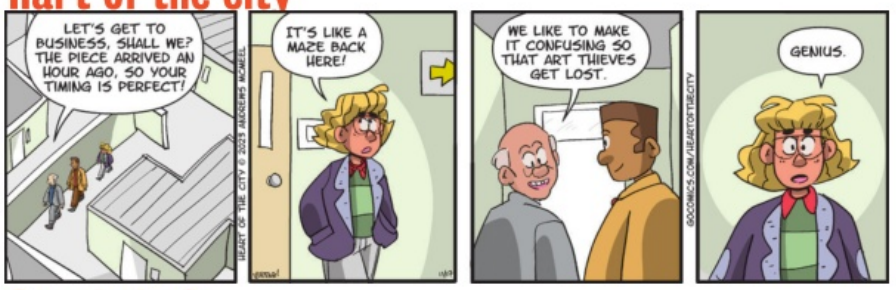
COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


LET'S GET TO BUSINESS, SHALL WE? THE PIECE ARRIVED AN HOUR AGO, SO YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT!
IT'S LIKE A MAZE BACK HERE!
WE LIKE TO MAKE IT CONFUSING SO THAT ART THIEVES GET LOST.
GENIUS.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

IS THIS FOREIGN FILM YOU WANT TO WATCH SUBTITLED?
NO... IT'S DUBBED IN ENGLISH!
GOOD, I LIKE IT BETTER WHEN FOREIGN FILMS ARE DUB-TITLED!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
11-17

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you may hear good news from your sibling. Spending time with family and friends is indicated. With creativity, you may plan to renovate your house or office. Starting new partnerships with family members may be beneficial in the near future. Your subordinates at the office may help you with projects.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel negative. Tasks remain incomplete, and you may experience mood swings. Your patience may be tested, and silly mistakes may confuse you. Love birds may find themselves confused about their feelings. High expectations may affect your emotional attachment to your spouse. Take care of your parents, and students may struggle with concentration.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, the positive moon may bring happiness and peace of mind. You may work efficiently in your professional life, with cooperation from subordinates in making important business decisions. Planning to start a new venture with the help of siblings and your network is indicated, which could benefit your business's growth. Remember to take proper rest to maintain your enthusiasm.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, the moon's influence may lead to detachment from responsibilities. Be cautious of overspending on unnecessary items, as it may increase negativity at home or work. Keep an eye on opponents and rivals to avoid becoming a victim of conspiracy. Read documents carefully before signing.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, enjoying both family and professional life. Being polite with those around you may help in completing tasks smoothly. Discovering new sources of income may boost your savings, and planning to renovate your house or office is favoured.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. Enjoy your work and expect rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may increase, but be mindful of overworking, which may lead to fatigue. Chronic health issues concerning your parents may see improvement.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon, finding satisfaction at work. Planning for a short work-related trip is favoured. Visiting a religious place may bring inner peace, and guidance from elders may provide clarity regarding your goals.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, the moon's influence may make you feel dull. Keep calm and think twice before acting. Avoid risky financial endeavours and adventurous trips. Students should focus on in-depth study for success.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon, experiencing domestic harmony and happiness. Meeting influential people may benefit you professionally, and good performance at work could lead to promotions. Disputes over inherited property may be resolved.

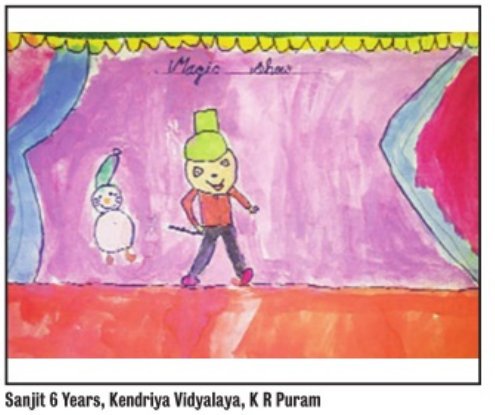
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon, enjoying good health and focusing towards your goals. Expect recognition at work, with possible new responsibilities and positive outcomes in legal matters. You may gain control over opponents and business rivals.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be inclined towards gaining knowledge and controlling your temper for smooth task performance. Financial gains are possible, but be cautious with new investments. Spending on loved ones is indicated, and love birds may enjoy happy moments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, the negative influence of the moon may bring feelings of negativity and burden. Take your time to complete tasks and avoid making silly mistakes. Seek advice from elders before making important decisions to avoid project delays.

KIDZONE

R Tanushree, 8 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya, C V Raman Nagar



Sanjit 6 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya, K R Puram

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(√4+2.?)/√%₀
=(2+4)/(½₀)
=2+4×(10/4)
=2+10
=12

BULL'S EYE
doer, dote, redo, rode, rotted, toed, totted, trod, TROTTED

STRIKE OUT

P	S	C	E	N	D	E	D	S	I	A	M	U		
I	A	S	I	T	E	D	I							
L	E	N	A	L	E	T	S	D	O	W	N			
T	A	K	E	A	S	C	E	T	I	C	S			
	R		E		D		A		N	A	G			
R	O	D	E	E	I	S	H							
A	R	M	A	M	E	N	T	K	E	Y	S			
B	O	O	R	L	U	C	K	I	E	S	T			
I	C	I	D	E	R	Y	M	E						
C	O	V	O	L	O									
M	A	N	E	D										
A	R	A	M	E										
L	Y	R	I	C										

FAST FIVE

QUOTE UNCODE
To give anything less than your best, is to sacrifice the gift.

QUICK

D	O	R	E	S	S	I	N	G		E	S	P	Y	
O		C		B		O		R		I		E		
O	R	I	V	A		S	P	A	R	O	W			
M		L		R		S		E		D		E		
	M	A	R	A	C	A		N	E	I	G	H		
Y		H		P		I						T		
L	Y	C	E	U	M		F	L	E	E	C	Y		
B		K		E				N		A		B		
M	A	M	B	O		R	O	D	E	N	T			
E		A		D		O		I		K				
S	P	R	O	U	T	S		Y	E	A	R	N		
S		C		S		Y		A		R		A		
A	L	S	O		E	M	A	N	A	T	E	D		

RIDDLER
Hockey – CS,
Basketball – TI,
Baseball – GY,
Football – AS,
Cricket – MN Final
sport – Gymnastics

MENSA PUZZLE
2: In rows and columns alternate digits total the same, for example 5 + 9 = 10 + 4

SUDOKU

2	8	5	9	1	4	7	6	3
9	7	6	8	5	3	1	4	2
3	1	4	7	2	6	8	5	9
6	4	7	5	3	2	9	8	1
5	9	2	1	8	7	6	3	4
1	3	8	4	6	9	5	2	7
8	6	3	2	7	1	4	9	5
7	5	9	3	4	8	2	1	6
4	2	1	6	9	5	3	7	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Mi, Rim, M, Prime, Impure, Umpired.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 5 + 8 + 3 = 20
Medium
4 + 9 x 1 + 2 = 15
Hard
2 x 6 + 1 – 8 = 5

LOOP

KAKURO

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